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# Report : Petition of A. Northrup

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 5, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1254.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1254) granting a pension to Anson Northrup, have examined the same and report:

The case of Anson Northrup, the beneficiary under the bill, though lacking a technically legal basis, has features of personal merit and public obligation which peculiarly entitle it to the equitable consideration of Congress. He belongs to a class of men found only during the early periods of frontier life, to whose unselfish energy are due some of the best results which follow in the establishment of prosperous States. His services during the late war, for which the consideration of Congress is now asked, are set forth in graphic detail by the Hon. Wm. Lochren, of the Minnesota bench, whose personal knowledge and high character render other recapitulation unnecessary. Judge Lochren's letter follows:

DISTRICT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT,  
*Minneapolis, Minn., October 16, 1891.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: I am very glad to understand that steps will be taken to procure a suitable pension for Capt. Anson Northrup. No more meritorious case exists; and mere technicalities should not be allowed to stand in the way. At the outbreak of the civil war he was in his forty-fifth year, and enlisted his two minor sons in the First Minnesota Regiment, and was himself appointed wagonmaster of that regiment. His efficiency and energy soon caused him to be advanced to the charge of the brigade, and then of the division trains in the field; and during the seven days' battles and change of base of the Army of the Potomac in June, 1862, he had charge of the entire train of the Second Army Corps. He had that degree of efficiency, courage, and energy that no obstacle could ever stop or danger intimidate and the faculty of infusing his own energy into his subordinates. In the vicinity of White Oak Swamp on that march his train at the rear was impeded in foundrous roads and so much endangered by a rebel attack that almost reached it that he was ordered by a superior officer to abandon a considerable part of it, but refused to obey the order and brought off every wagon.

During his whole service he never failed to have his train up on time and never lost a wagon or a pound of material.

Whenever the First Regiment was in action, if his presence with his train was not necessary, he usually took a musket and fought bravely in the ranks of the regiment. This was so at Bull Run, Edwards Ferry, and other actions. Of these matters, as one of the First Regiment, I have personal knowledge.

On news of the Indian outbreak in Minnesota, in August, 1862, he returned to the State on leave, and being given a captain's commission when he reached St. Paul, within twenty-four hours raised and mounted a cavalry company of 96 men at

Minneapolis, and with such arms as he could get marched at once for the relief of the small garrison of Fort Ridgley, then beleaguered by a large force of savages, reaching there about the first of much-needed re-enforcements. The necessary outlay in furnishing this company of cavalry was mostly borne by himself.

His service during the entire Indian war which followed, efficient as his service always was, is well known to you. He has now reached his seventy-fifth year, with his exceptionally strong constitution broken down by the hardships and exposures he underwent in the service of his country. If he served without regular muster or pay the service was as effective, and it merely shows his characteristic disregard for self-interest or any thought as to himself in the performance of the duties he undertook. Neither Gorman nor Sedgwick nor Sumner in the Army of the Potomac, nor Sibley nor Sully in their Indian campaigns would inquire about the muster or rank of Ans. Northrup. Each of them knew his exceptional capacity for handling large trains and gave him full charge.

It would be discreditable to any government to allow a man who has rendered such services to want for the comforts of life in the helplessness of age. I sincerely hope you will be successful in getting for him a suitable pension.

Respectfully and sincerely, yours,

WM. LOCHREN.

Senator C. K. DAVIS,  
St. Paul, Minn.

In these days of hot partisanship Judge Lochren occupies the almost unique position, equally creditable to his character and talents, of being repeatedly elected to a high judicial office in a district largely opposed to him in political sentiment. This fact, as illustrating the man, gives weight to his words, and should render unnecessary further attempt to describe the extent and quality of Anson Northrup's services. But the cordial testimony given by Hon. Alexander Ramsey, ex-Senator, cabinet minister, and war governor of Minnesota, of ex-Senator Henry M. Rice, and the Hon. Charles E. Flandrau, of uniform high character, with many other testimonials submitted to the committee, are added to show in what esteem Mr. Northrup is held by representative men of all grades of politics in the State where he has lived for fifty years.

This weight of evidence convinces the committee that the bill is exceptionally meritorious and induces them to recommend its passage, which is hereby done.

ST. PAUL, November 5, 1891.

DEAR SIR: When the war of the rebellion opened in 1861, and our first regiment marched to the Potomac, Anson Northrup, who had lived on our frontier for a number of years, a man full of pluck, energy, skill, and determination, without any appointment to army service, but moved by his kindly feeling for the young men who were leaving home at the call of the Government, determined to march with "the boys" and care for them and the regiment to the best of his ability.

From the determined character of the man he accomplished wonders in his service as wagon-master for the regiment in its early campaigns in Virginia.

When the Sioux Indians in our State in August, 1862, counting upon the defenseless condition of our frontier settlements because of the absence of our soldiers in the South, began a war of indiscriminate slaughter upon men, women, and children on our then western frontier, this patriotic and tireless man, Northrup, quickly raised a company of mounted men and moved to the defense of Fort Ridgley, then occupied by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, in charge of a large sum of Government money for payment of Indian annuities, with many citizens who for protection had sought the post upon the sudden outbreak of the red devils; he with others relieved the fort.

I have no doubt that in all these services he was called upon to expend his own money, for when he had it he used it freely, and such services as he rendered required money and there was none among our people.

He is now far advanced in years and a generous people should gratefully remember his service and place him above want in the few years that are left him.

Very respectfully,

ALEX. RAMSEY.

Hon. C. K. DAVIS,  
United States Senator.

ST. PAUL, November 2, 1891.

DEAR SIR: In a general way I am somewhat conversant with the doings of Anson Northrup during the civil and Indian wars, and was at the time satisfied of the great service he rendered. I have known him for nearly fifty years. His patriotism and energy have been his predominant characteristics. If anything was to be done he never waited for particulars nor to study consequences. For many years I was intimately acquainted with him during the early settlement of the West, and know that he was always to the front, and from reliable sources I know he was, during our troubles, where his services could be the most useful. He is now old, decrepit, and poor. If a man was ever entitled to the consideration of the Government it is he. The great mistake he made was not waiting for a written commission, but without which no army mission was ever more faithfully executed than his.

Truly, yours,

HENRY M. RICE.

Hon. C. K. DAVIS,  
*United States Senator.*

ST. PAUL, MINN., December 23, 1891.

MY DEAR SIR: Having learned that my old friend, Anson Northrup, was making some appeal to Congress for relief in his old age, I take pleasure in adding my mite of assistance in his behalf. I have been shown two letters addressed to you upon the subject, one from Judge William Lochren, of date October 16, 1891, and one from Governor Ramsey, of November 5, 1891, and have read them both carefully.

Of course I can say nothing about the services of Mr. Northrup in connection with the First Regiment, which are detailed in such an interesting manner by Judge Lochren, but you know as well as I do that it is useless to attempt to add anything to what the judge says. I fully concur in all that both he and Governor Ramsey say as to the valuable services rendered by Mr. Northrup during the Indian troubles in 1862. He was among the very first to relieve Fort Ridgely, arriving there with his company on the 27th of August, which fact I mention in my narrative of the Indian war, on page 736 of the second edition of the State war book. Mr. Northrup is now very old and very poor, and incapable of supporting himself. Among the thousands of pensions that are being granted for military services I know of none that could be more worthily bestowed than in the case under consideration.

Trusting that you will do all in your power, as I know you will, in Mr. Northrup's behalf, I remain,

Very truly,

CHAS. E. FLANAGAN.

Hon. C. K. DAVIS,  
*United States Senator, Washington, D. C.*